

Amendments to the Drawings

Applicants respectfully present herewith replacement Figures 15-20 which include the desired changes, without markings, and which comply with §1.84. The changes made to Figures 15-20 are explained in the accompanying remarks section below.

REMARKS

The Office Action dated December 20, 2004, has been received and carefully noted. The amendments made herein and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 10, 12, 15, 18-19 have been amended, and claims 16-17 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicants submit that the amendments made herein are fully supported in the specification and the drawings as originally filed, and therefore no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 10-13, 15 and 18-19 are pending in the present application and are respectfully submitted for consideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 10-13, 15 and 18-19 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the formal rejections.

Replacement Drawings

The drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR § 1.83(a) because Figs. 15-20 of the drawings were not properly labeled as --Prior Art--. Applicants respectfully present replacement Figs. 15-20 properly labeled as --Prior Art--, which comply with § 1.84. Accordingly, Applicants request approval of the drawing changes, and the objection to be withdrawn.

Abstract of the Disclosure

The Abstract of the Disclosure was objected to because the subject matter of the abstract does not appear to be directed to the claimed invention. Applicants submit

herewith proposed amendments to the Abstract which is in compliance with US patent practice. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the objection to the Abstract to be withdrawn.

Formal Matters

Claims 10-13, 15 and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The claims have been amended responsive to the rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In addition, since claims 10-13, 15 and 18-19 have been amended to overcome the formal rejections, Applicants submit that claims 10-13, 15 and 18-19 are allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit the present application is in compliance with US patent practice, and further submit that each of claims 10-13, 15 and 18-19 are allowable, and request that this application be passed to issue.

If for any reason, the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper has not been timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Replacement Figures 15-20

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